© 2011 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.

THE NEW AVENGERS

THE BREAKUP

PREVIOUSLY...

The New Avengers know that the shape-shifting aliens known as the Skrulls have invaded the Earth. And, since they cannot tell who is really a Skrull, they cannot trust anyone to be who they seem to be, including each other. This has sent the Avengers into a tailspin of mistrust.

Recently, the Avengers stopped the Hood's newly-organized gang of super-villains, but the Hood broke his cohorts out of S.H.I.E.L.D. custody and took them right back to the Avengers. The attack at the Sanctum Sanctorum was fierce, and though the Avengers won the day, they did so at the cost of Doctor Strange, who lost both his mastery of the mystic arts and his home. Luke Cage's wife, Jessica Jones, fled the battle in mortal fear for their child's safety. Jessica has found asylum with the registered Mighty Avengers, even though she betrayed her husband's beliefs by doing so…

Writer
Brian Michael Bendis

Artist
Michael Gaydos

Color Art
Jose Villarrubia

Letterers
RS & Comicraft's
Albert Deschesne

Cover Artist
Marko Djurdjevic

Associate Editor
Molly Lazer

Editor
Tom Brevoort

Editor in Chief
Joe Quesada

Publisher
Dan Buckley

To find Marvel Comics at a local comic shop, call 1-888-COMICBOOK.

© 2011 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

ALIAS
INVESTIGATION
SERVICES
ALIAS
INVESTIGATIC
SERVICES
JESSICA?
ALIAS
CRUNCHH
ALIAS
SERVICES

JESSICA?
PARK
NO.

BLEE BLEE
HERE WE GO.
AVENGERS TOWER. JESSICA JONES SPEAKING. HOW MAY I HELP YOU?
TRAVEL
ARE YOU @#$% KIDDING ME?

THE BABY'S OKAY.
ARE YOU @#$% KIDDING ME?
I'M OKAY TOO, BY THE WAY.
WHAT THE @#$%?!
I FLIPPED. OKAY?
YOU WANT TO COME TOO... THAT'LL BE GREAT.
YOU FLIPPED WHAT?
I SIGNED.
YOU SIGNED WHAT?
YOU KNOW WHAT. YOU KNOW WHERE I AM. YOU NEED ME TO SAY THE WORDS?
YEAH, I GUESS I DO.

I HAD TO PROTECT OUR BABY.

SO *YOU* RAN TO TONY STARK.

I KNOW THIS IS NOT WHAT WE--

YOU *KNOW?*

YOU KNOW *WHAT,* GIRL? AFTER ALL THIS?!

AFTER THE WAR, AFTER CAPTAIN AMERICA DIED, WHAT DO *YOU* KNOW?

TELL *ME* WHAT *YOU* KNOW!

I KNOW OUR BABY WASN'T SAFE IN THE ENVIRONMENT WE WERE PROVIDING FOR HER, *LUKE.*

THE BAD GUYS CAME CRASHING THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR, *LUKE.*

WHAT THE @#$% WAS I SUPPOSED TO *DO,* LUKE?!

I'M NOT GOING TO SCREW UP BEING A MOM LIKE I SCREWED UP EVERYTHING ELSE IN MY LIFE!

I'M NOT GOING TO *DO* IT!

THIS IS THE THING I'M GOING TO DO RIGHT!

I LET YOU MAKE THE CALL FIRST. I DID.

I LET YOU SET US UP IN STRANGE'S CREEPY FUNHOUSE.

I LET YOU *"LIVE BY YOUR DAMN PRINCIPLES"* EVEN THOUGH NO ONE *CARES* ABOUT YOUR DAMN PRINCIPLES!

YES, THE WAR'S OVER.

AND YOU *LOST!* AND *STILL* I WENT ALONG WITH YOU.

BUT YOU KNOW WHAT, LUKE? YOU GAVE IT A SHOT AND-- AND IT DIDN'T WORK!

WE'RE NOT SAFE! WE'RE NOT! WE NEVER WERE.

THE BABY NEEDS MORE THAN WHAT WE WERE DOING!

AND I'M NOT A-A-A PARENTAL GENIUS, BUT I THINK PUTTING THE KID'S WELL-BEING *BEFORE YOUR OWN* AND YOUR DAMN PRINCIPLES HAS GOT TO BE A BIG @#$% PART OF THE DAMN THING!

HELLO?

WASN'T YOUR CALL, JESSICA.

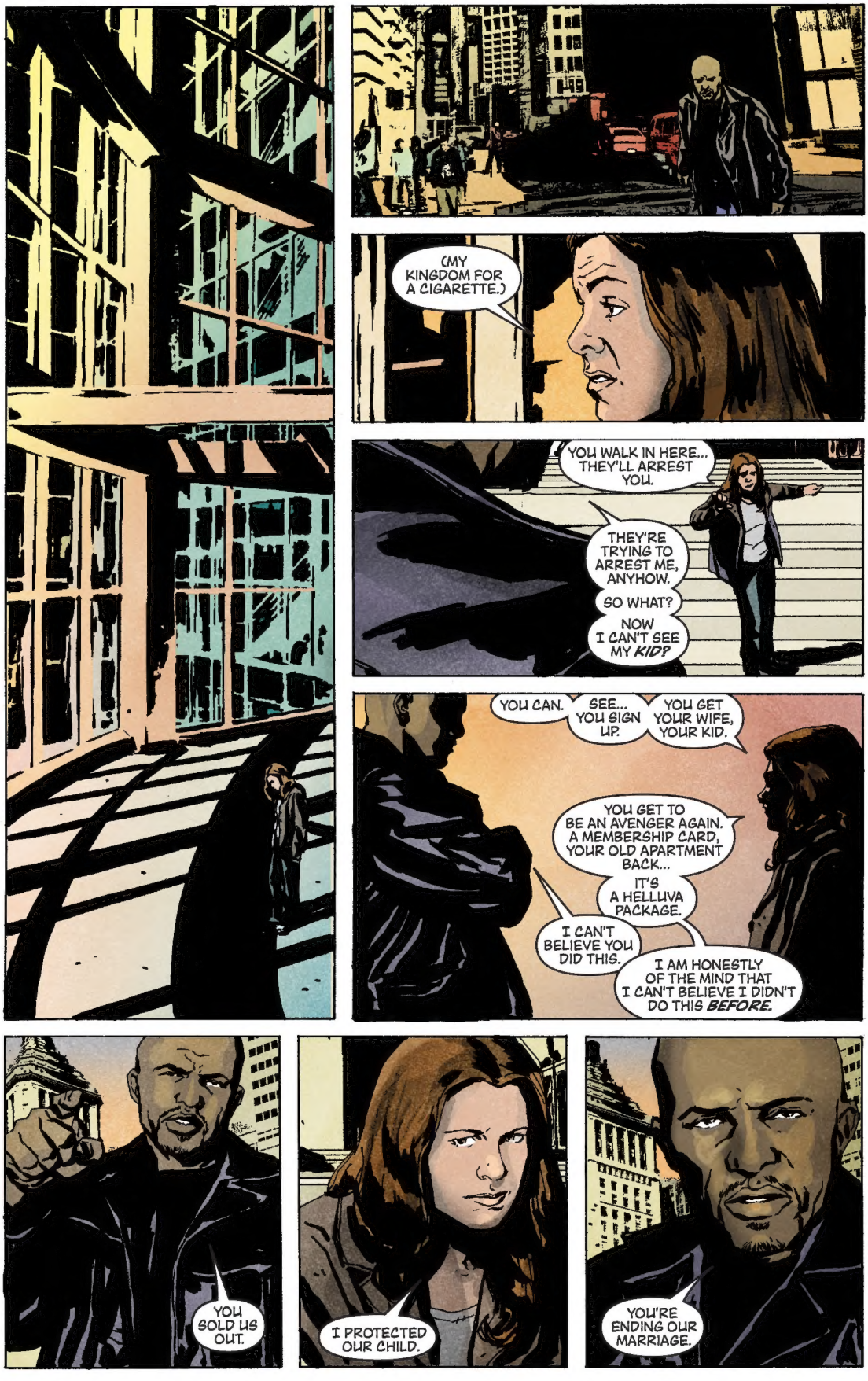
ACTUALLY, IT WAS.

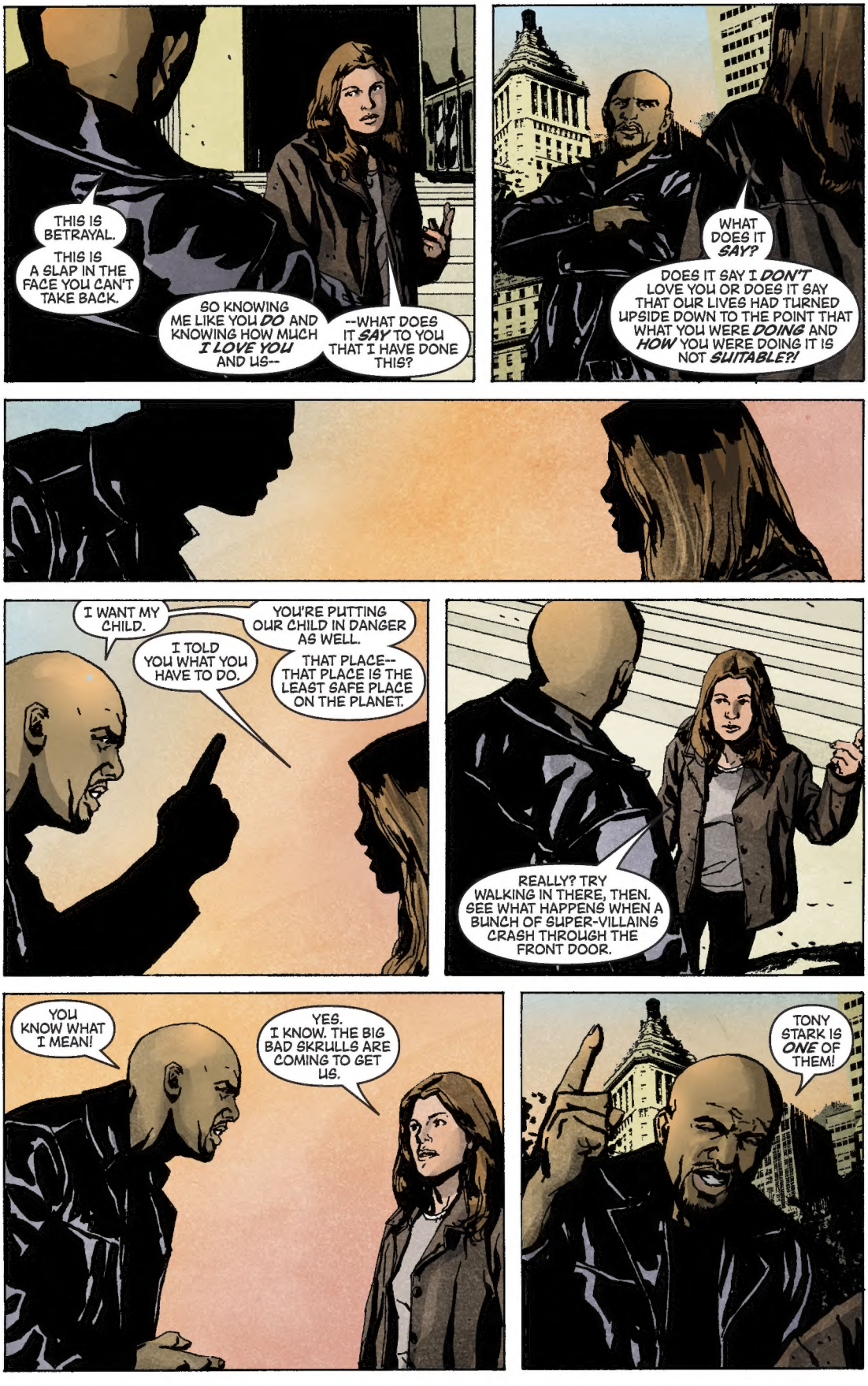
Phone

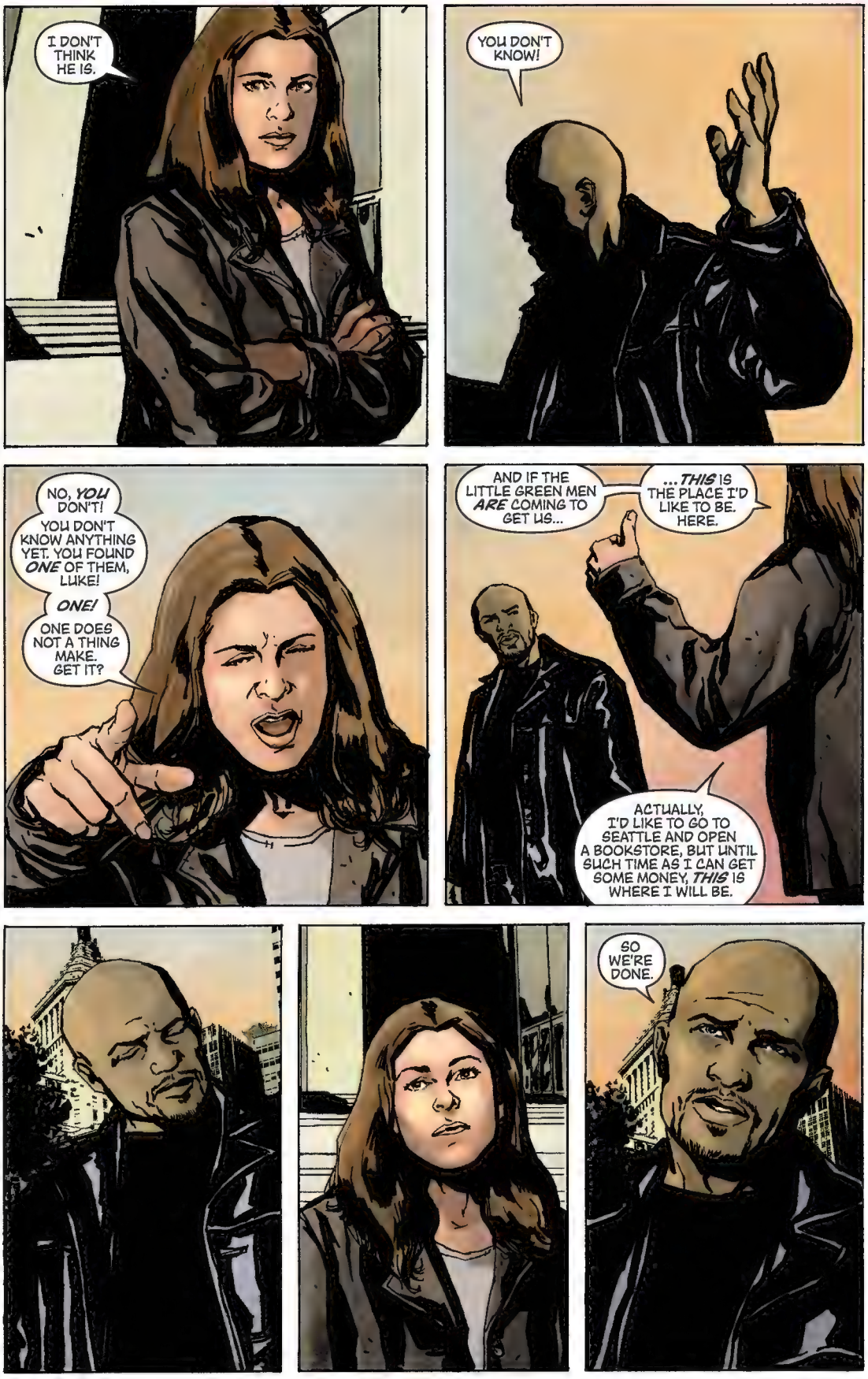
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER THINGS WE KNOW?

WHAT ABOUT THE ELEKTRA THING, JESSICA?

WHAT ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING, LUKE?
I'M TALKING ABOUT TODAY! RIGHT NOW!
BAD GUYS TRASHED WHAT LITTLE LIFE WE HAD LEFT.
WE HAVE NO HOME!
THE WAR'S OVER! YOU LOST!
LOSE LIKE A MAN! PUT YOUR KID FIRST!
CRASH
DID HE HANG UP?
OH YEAH.
SORRY ABOUT THAT, JARVIS.
YOU DID NOT WAKE ME.
I AM PREPARING FOR THE DAY AND THE AVENGERS' RETURN.
I WAS AMAZED HE WENT THAT LONG.
WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE MASTER CAGE IS GOING TO DO NOW?
TRASH YOUR LOBBY.


(MY KINGDOM FOR A CIGARETTE.)
YOU WALK IN HERE... THEY'LL ARREST YOU.
THEY'RE TRYING TO ARREST ME, ANYHOW.
SO WHAT?
NOW I CAN'T SEE MY KID?
YOU CAN.
SEE... YOU SIGN UP.
YOU GET YOUR WIFE, YOUR KID.
YOU GET TO BE AN AVENGER AGAIN. A MEMBERSHIP CARD, YOUR OLD APARTMENT BACK...
IT'S A HELLUVA PACKAGE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DID THIS.
I AM HONESTLY OF THE MIND THAT I CAN'T BELIEVE I DIDN'T DO THIS BEFORE.
YOU SOLD US OUT.
I PROTECTED OUR CHILD.
YOU'RE ENDING OUR MARRIAGE.


THIS IS BETRAYAL.
THIS IS A SLAP IN THE FACE YOU CAN'T TAKE BACK.
SO KNOWING ME LIKE YOU *DO* AND KNOWING HOW MUCH *I LOVE YOU* AND US--
--WHAT DOES IT *SAY* TO YOU THAT I HAVE DONE THIS?
WHAT DOES IT *SAY?*
DOES IT SAY I *DON'T* LOVE YOU OR DOES IT SAY THAT OUR LIVES HAD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN TO THE POINT THAT WHAT YOU WERE *DOING* AND *HOW* YOU WERE DOING IT IS NOT *SUITABLE?!*
I WANT MY CHILD.
I TOLD YOU WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO.
YOU'RE PUTTING OUR CHILD IN DANGER AS WELL.
THAT PLACE-- THAT PLACE IS THE LEAST SAFE PLACE ON THE PLANET.
REALLY? TRY WALKING IN THERE, THEN. SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A BUNCH OF SUPER-VILLAINS CRASH THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR.
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!
YES. I KNOW. THE BIG BAD SKRULLS ARE COMING TO GET US.
TONY STARK IS *ONE* OF THEM!


I DON'T THINK HE IS.
YOU DON'T KNOW!
NO, YOU DON'T! YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING YET. YOU FOUND ONE OF THEM, LUKE!
ONE!
ONE DOES NOT A THING MAKE. GET IT?
AND IF THE LITTLE GREEN MEN ARE COMING TO GET US...
...THIS IS THE PLACE I'D LIKE TO BE. HERE.
ACTUALLY, I'D LIKE TO GO TO SEATTLE AND OPEN A BOOKSTORE, BUT UNTIL SUCH TIME AS I CAN GET SOME MONEY, THIS IS WHERE I WILL BE.
SO WE'RE DONE.

I DON'T *WANT* TO BE DONE.

NO.

I WANT YOU TO COME *IN* WITH ME.

BUT KNOWING I WON'T LIKE THIS.

WE'RE DONE.

THAT'S YOUR CALL.

MY CALL.

YOU ACT LIKE I WANTED ANY OF THIS.

NO.

I DIDN'T CREATE THIS SITUATION.

NO, BUT THIS *IS* THE SITUATION...

...AND NOW WE HAVE TO DECIDE THINGS. LIKE THE ADULTS WE *ARE*, WITH THE RESPONSIBILITIES WE *HAVE*...

...THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE TO DO.

WHY'D YOU COME BACK FROM CANADA AFTER CAP DIED?

CLEARLY, I WAS WRONG TO.

SORRY.

I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO GO THE DISTANCE. I REALLY DID.

WE STILL CAN.

YOU SHOULD HAVE CONSULTED ME.

I KNEW WHAT YOU WOULD SAY.

THIS IS TOO BIG NOT TO HAVE TALKED IT OVER FIRST.

MORNING, JARVIS. WE'RE TIRED, HUNGRY AND CRABBY.

SHOULD I HAVE CALLED A SUPER-VILLAIN TIME-OUT DURING THE FIGHT WHERE THEY TRASHED OUR HOUSE AND--

MS. DANVERS, SHALL I PREPARE A--

IS--

IS THAT BABY CAGE?

YES, MS. DANVERS.

WHOA!

IS JESSICA HERE?

IT'S BEEN A RATHER DRAMATIC TURN THE LAST DAY OR TWO...

WHILE YOU WERE GONE, MISS JONES CAME HERE SEEKING ASYLUM.

CONSIDERING YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HER AND THE BABY'S WELL-BEING, I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF INVITING HER IN.

SHE AND HER HUSBAND ARE HAVING WORDS OUTSIDE.

THAT IS NOT A MAN.

HE SHOULD SLAP HER AND TELL HER HOW IT IS.

HOW ABOUT I SLAP YOU, ARES?

OKAY.

THIS IS BAD.

SHOULD WE--?

I'LL HANDLE IT.

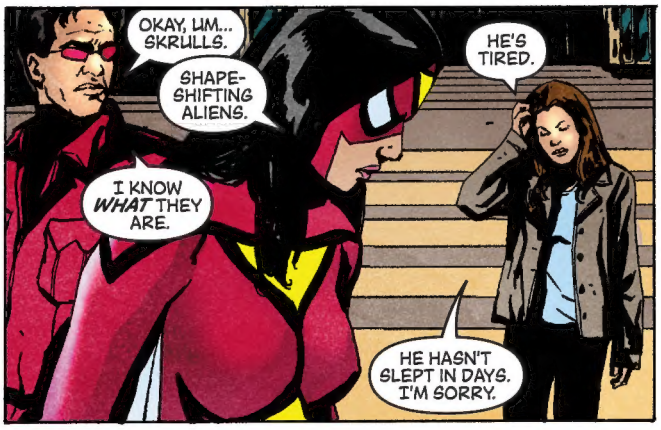
LUKE...
SO WHAT, I GOT TO GO GET A LAWYER TO SEE MY KID?
GO AHEAD.
YOUR FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE STATUS IN THE COMMUNITY SHOULD LOOK GREAT AT A CHILD CUSTODY HEARING.
OR YOU COULD GET OVER YOURSELF.
MOST OF THE PEOPLE IN THERE ARE YOUR FRIENDS.
WERE YOUR FRIENDS.
UNTIL THEY SOLD OUT.
"SOLD OUT." GROW UP.
I COULD TAKE ALL THOSE @#$%$ IN THERE.
SO NOW *YOU'RE* GOING TO PUT THE BABY IN HARM'S WAY?
I'M JUST SAYING.
WELL, GOOD FOR YOU.
LUKE, YOU'VE GOT TO GO.

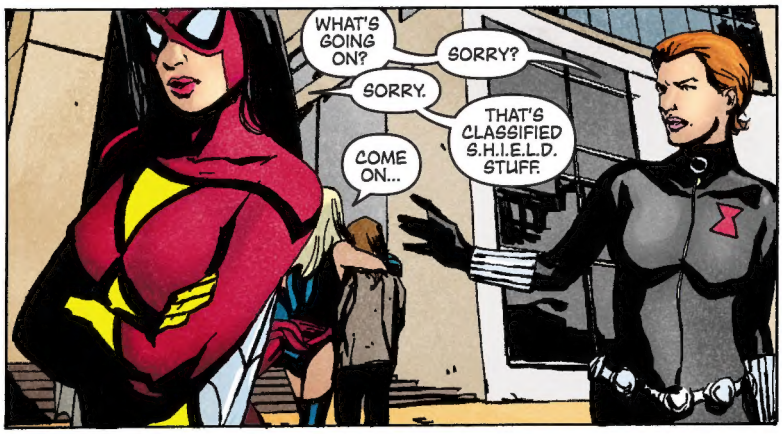
HERE'S THE QUEEN OF SELLOUT.
DON'T TAKE YOUR CRAP OUT ON ME, LUKE.
THE ONLY REASON YOU'RE NOT IN JAIL IS BECAUSE OF ME.
AND THIS IS WHAT YOU GUYS DO? YOU TAKE IT TO MY FRONT DOOR?
JESSICA.
IT IS WHAT IT IS.
"IT IS WHAT IT IS."
YOU THINK ABOUT IT.
I KNOW YOU'RE MAD... BUT AT THE SAME TIME...
...YOU CAN'T TELL ME WHAT ELSE I COULD HAVE DONE.
ARE YOU GOING TO THINK ABOUT IT?
CAROL...
BECAUSE, HEY, IF YOU'RE "THINKING" ABOUT SIGNING ON I CAN LET YOU WALK OUT OF HERE.
IF NOT...
IF NOT...
YOU WANT TO WALK OUT OF HERE, RIGHT?
AS OPPOSED TO SITTING IN A CELL NEXT TO MARVEL BOY...
RIGHT?
(WOW, YOU MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO DO RIGHT BY YOU.)
IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?

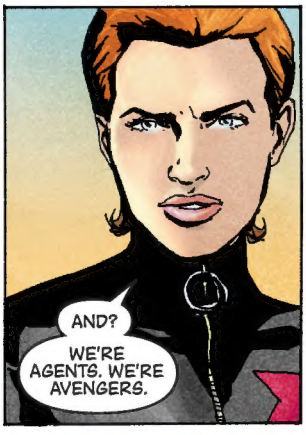
SIMON, EVERYTHING IS FINE.
I TOLD YOU ALL TO WAIT UPSTAIRS.
AND LOOK WHO IT IS. THE SELLOUTS ASSEMBLE.
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST, CAGE.
HE'S NOT.
HE'S NOT?
WE'RE NEGOTIATING THE TERMS OF HIS-- HE'S THINKING ABOUT CHANGING OVER.
NO, HE'S NOT.
HE'D RATHER DIE.
AND I'M TELLING YOU RIGHT NOW...
ANY OF YOU SKRULL SHAPE-SHIFTING @#$%$ TOUCH JESSICA OR MY BABY...
...I'M GOING TO KILL YOU AND EVERYONE YOU EVER MET!
SKRULLS.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
HUH.
GUESS YOU GUYS SHOULD TALK TO YOUR BOSS.
OR THE PROM QUEEN OVER THERE.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

HE'S WALKING? YOU'RE LETTING HIM WALK?
TEAM LEADER. MY CALL. I TOLD YOU--
I DON'T GET IT.
HE'S A FUGITIVE FROM--

NATASHA, YOU'D BE ROTTING IN THE RUSSIAN GULAG IF NOT FOR THE RULES BENDING A LITTLE TO CONSIDER THE BIGGER PICTURE.
CAGE'S GUYS JUST TOOK DOWN AN ENTIRE GANG OF S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT MURDERERS, HIGH-RISK BAD GUYS, TWICE IN ONE NIGHT.
HE'S THINKING ABOUT FLIPPING.
SO WHY DON'T YOU CRAWL OUT OF MY NOSE FOR TWO SECONDS?!

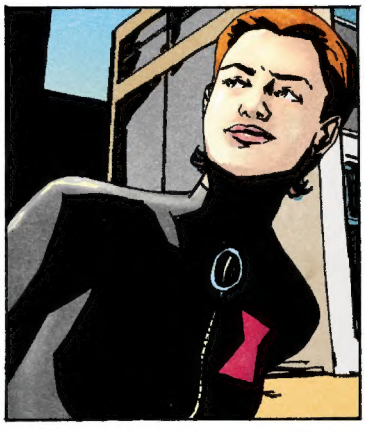

OKAY, UM... SKRULLS.
SHAPE-SHIFTING ALIENS.
I KNOW *WHAT* THEY ARE.
HE'S TIRED.
HE HASN'T SLEPT IN DAYS. I'M SORRY.


WHAT'S GOING ON?
SORRY?
SORRY.
THAT'S CLASSIFIED S.H.I.E.L.D. STUFF.
COME ON...


AND?
WE'RE AGENTS. WE'RE AVENGERS.

I'M NOT THE ONE TO TALK TO.
WAIT TILL TONY GETS BACK.

SKRULLS NOW?
I DON'T GET IT.



LATER...

CAN DANNY RAND PULL SOMETHING OUT OF HIS %^$ OR CAN DANNY RAND PULL SOMETHING OUT OF HIS #$$?!

WHOSE APARTMENT IS THIS?

I'M SAYING IT'S OURS NOW, MAYA.

BUT IT'S NOT AN APARTMENT. IT'S THE ENTIRE FLOOR.

THIS BUILDING IS IN RAND CORPORATION'S REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS THROUGH A SISTER COMPANY...

(I'M BORED OF THIS ANSWER ALREADY.)

I'M TELLING YOU. THIS ENTIRE FLOOR WAS RENTED OUT TO SAMUEL STERNS UNDER A THIRD PARTY ON HIS SIDE.

SAMUEL STERNS?

THE LEADER, IT TURNS OUT.

WHO?

SAMUEL STERNS. A GAMMA-IRRADIATED GENIUS WITH SUPERHUMAN INTELLIGENCE AND MIND-CONTROL ABILITIES.

BIG GREEN HEAD, USED TO FIGHT THE HULK.

OH YEAH.

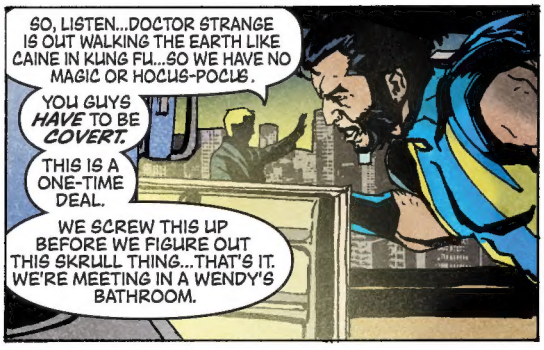
SURE.

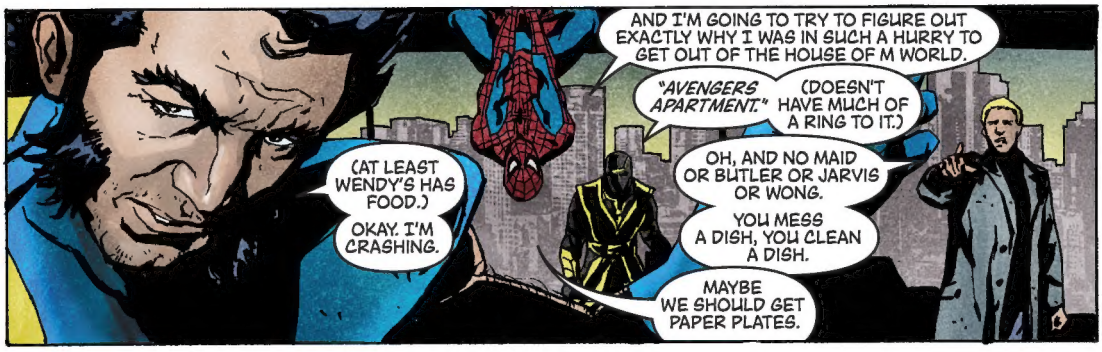
GOTCHA.

IS HE COMING BACK?

SAMUEL STERNS IS NO LONGER A CONCERN, SO HIS REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS WERE SEIZED, THEN RETURNED INTO RECEIVERSHIP.
SO FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR, AT LEAST, THIS ALREADY-RENTED FLOOR IS NOT BEING USED.
AND IS INDIRECTLY OWNED BY *ME.*
AND IT WOULD TAKE A TEAM OF LAWYERS TO EVEN *FIGURE OUT* I OWN IT, LET ALONE TO LOOK FOR US HERE.

YOU GUYS USE THE BACK ALLEY ELEVATOR. NO ONE HAS ACCESS TO IT BUT US.
YOU, SPIDEY, USE THE WINDOW IN THE ALLEY. THAT'LL LEAD RIGHT TO YOUR OWN ROOM.
TO THE LEADER.
(I GUESS.)
COOL.


SO, LISTEN...DOCTOR STRANGE IS OUT WALKING THE EARTH LIKE CAINE IN KUNG FU...SO WE HAVE NO MAGIC OR HOCUS-POCUS.
YOU GUYS *HAVE* TO BE *COVERT.*
THIS IS A ONE-TIME DEAL.
WE SCREW THIS UP BEFORE WE FIGURE OUT THIS SKRULL THING...THAT'S IT. WE'RE MEETING IN A WENDY'S BATHROOM.


AND I'M GOING TO TRY TO FIGURE OUT EXACTLY WHY I WAS IN SUCH A HURRY TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE OF M WORLD.
"*AVENGERS APARTMENT.*" (DOESN'T HAVE MUCH OF A RING TO IT.)
OH, AND NO MAID OR BUTLER OR JARVIS OR WONG.
YOU MESS A DISH, YOU CLEAN A DISH.
MAYBE WE SHOULD GET PAPER PLATES.
(AT LEAST WENDY'S HAS FOOD.)
OKAY. I'M CRASHING.

NOT EXACTLY WHAT I IMAGINED BEING AN AVENGER WOULD BE LIKE.
ONCE WE FIGURE OUT A GAME PLAN, WE'LL REFIGURE OUR PLACE IN THE WORLD.
AS LUKE SAID, WE--

SLAM

DID HE FIND JESSICA AND THE BABY?
YEAH. THEY'RE GOING ANOTHER WAY.
OUCH.
YEAH.

NEXT ISSUE: THE TRUTH ABOUT ECHO